

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

November 1, 2012

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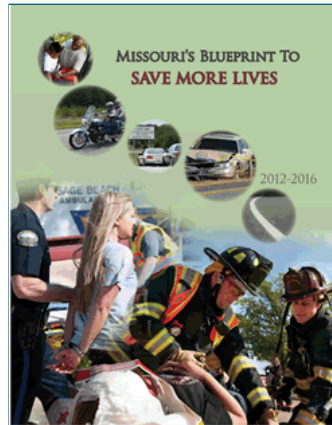
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Blueprint to Save More Lives Rolls Out New Fatality Goal

by Kelly Martin



Focusing on fatality reduction, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety boldly rolled out a new goal of 700 or fewer fatalities by 2016 at the Blueprint to Save More Lives Conference held in Branson. In addition to the aggressive new goal, the group pledged to work toward an eventual goal of zero roadway deaths.

"We've been very successful in meeting our goals since the inception of the coalition," said Leanna Depue, executive committee chair for the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. "We're all committed and we will work very hard toward the new goal."

Missouri is one of nine states able to boast of six straight years of declining fatality totals. It is one of ten states that experienced more than a 35 percent reduction in fatalities between 2005 and 2011, and one of three states with more than 2,000 fewer traffic fatalities since 2005. Missouri is also the only state in the nation to have achieved all three of these accomplishments.

During the conference Highway Safety Heroes were recognized with an awards luncheon which honored prestigious statewide and regional awards to those who have substantially advanced highway safety in Missouri.

Statewide award recipients:

- Lay Down the Law Award – Sgt. Dan Crain, Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop I, Rolla.
- Show-Me Safety Award – Dr. Lori Popejoy, University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing, Columbia.
- Tempe Humphrey Award – Pamela Holt, Mercy Hospital, Springfield.
- Arrive Alive Award – Joe Rickman, MoDOT, Springfield.

Regional award recipients:

- Northwest Region Arrive Alive Award – Northwest Missouri Regional Road Safety Audit Program.
- Northwest Region Show-Me Safety Award – Richard Bradley, St. Joseph Police Department.
- Northeast Region Arrive Alive Award – Chief Ed Bogue, City of Palmyra Police Department.
- Northeast Region Show-Me Safety Award – Tana Akright, MoDOT.
- Kansas City Region Arrive Alive Award – William "Rusty" James, MoDOT.
- Kansas City Region Show-Me Safety Award – Think First of Greater Kansas City Young Traffic Offenders Program.
- Central Region Arrive Alive Award – Matt Myers, SAIC.
- Central Region Show-Me Safety Award – ThinkFirst Missouri.
- St. Louis Region Arrive Alive Award – Highway Safety Unit, St. Louis County Police Department.
- Southwest Region Arrive Alive Award – Peggy D. Davis, DWI Court Commissioner, Greene County.
- Southwest Region Show-Me Safety Award – Rollover Crash Display, Southwest Coalition Executive Team.
- Southeast Region Arrive Alive Award – Lt. John Davis, Cape Girardeau Police Department.
- Southeast Region Show-Me Safety Award – Courtne Glenn, Wright County Health Department.



Col. Ron Replogle, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and MoDOT Director Kevin Keith unveil the new fatality reduction goal at the Blueprint to SAVE MORE LIVES Conference.

Historically, the Blueprint identified strategies having the greatest potential to save more lives and reduce serious injuries. In 2012, the strategies are known as the Necessary Nine. Aggressive implementation of the Necessary Nine represents the greatest opportunity to save more lives. By passing a primary safety belt law, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 63 additional lives would be saved in Missouri each year. Expanding the number of miles of shoulders with rumble stripes, as well as the number of curves with safety improvements, should also lead to more lives being saved.

For more information on Missouri's Blueprint to SAVE MORE LIVES, go to saveMOLives.com.

A Story of Survival

by Holly Dentner



Speaker John O'Leary (far right) takes volunteers through an exercise to help them realize the good that can result from challenges they face.

covered most of his body and he was given less than one percent chance of survival.

He endured months in the hospital, years in therapy, dozens of surgeries, and lost all of his fingers to amputation. But John's real story, and the one shared with our employees, was one of success, of survival, of rising above tragedy and finding the power to move forward in life.

Despite his circumstances, he became a college graduate, business owner, hospital chaplain, international speaker, and a husband and father.

"We all have our own 'burn' stories – whether it's a family crisis, financial woes, or health issues, we've all been there," said O'Leary. "I want you to realize that with your story, as difficult as it may be, you still have the gift to rewrite it going forward and to make it significant and important."

John spoke of the lead surgeon who would sit and talk with him when he was in the hospital. The surgeon always brought other hospital staff with him during these visits, including members of the housekeeping staff.

"The biggest risk of death in a burn unit is infection," said John. "The surgeon and other doctors play a critical role, but so does the minimum wage employee who cleans the floors and washes the sheets."

John believes that these sessions allowed the cleaning crew to look beyond their job duties and see the larger goal, and the way their work could impact his life. He believes that no matter what job title you hold, your work has value and it's important to realize that.

"You can't always choose the path you walk in life, but you can always choose the manner in which you walk it," O'Leary said. "Always ask yourself, 'What more can I do?'"

John O'Leary has traveled across Missouri hundreds of times, and admitted to a crowded room of MoDOT employees that he never thought about the people behind the pavement.

When MoDOT hired John to speak to employees in a special presentation on Oct. 25, he was amazed to learn that it takes thousands of us to keep up with Missouri's transportation system. He had no idea the breadth of experience and skills needed at the department and the variety of work that goes on here.

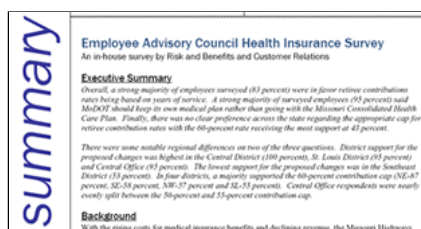
When he spoke to the group of about 300 employees from around the state, his message was simple, heartfelt, and meant to inspire and motivate. His message was to always remember the value you bring to your work and life, and to seek out the ways you can make life better for those around you, no matter what your circumstances.

When John was nine years old, he set fire to himself and his family's home by experimenting with a burning piece of cardboard and a can of gasoline. Second and third degree burns



O'Leary's story of survival and success against great odds captured the attention of nearly 300 MoDOT employees from around the state.

What's Happening



Employee Survey Summary of Proposed Medical Insurance Coverage

As part of the EAC's commitment to keeping MoDOT employees informed, they are sharing the summary of the employee survey regarding the proposed changes to the medical insurance coverage. The summary has been placed on the EAC intranet web page for employees to review - [Summary](#)

If you have questions, contact the [EAC](#).



Safety Jackpot

Northeast District Intermediate Maintenance Worker Charlie Roberts is the most recent winner of a Safety Jackpot bag grab. Charlie won \$750 last week in the nationwide drawing for the past quarter of Safety Jackpot. See more and video on the Northeast District page - [NE District](#)

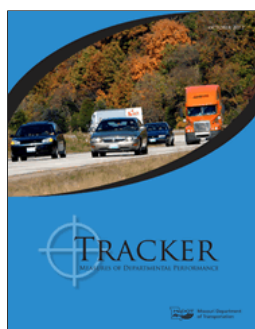
Left to Right: Assistant District Engineer Kevin James, Maintenance Worker Charlie Roberts and District Health and Safety Manager Shari Dye.



Safety Fliers / Posters / Video

New safety materials will soon be distributed by District and Central Office Safety and Health Managers. The materials will help to reiterate the important message of our new safety culture, remind us that we are all responsible for our own safety, the safety of our coworkers and the public, and make safety personal to for all employees. The documents are available on MoDOT's sharepoint site - [Safety Culture](#)

If you haven't yet, be sure to watch the employee safety testimonial video, which can be found on the intranet - [Safety is My Story](#)

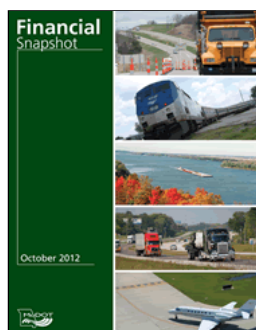


Tracker Available

The October 2012 Tracker and its supplement are now posted on the internet and intranet. Several changes have been made during the last two quarters. New measures have been added, some measures have moved to other chapters and some are no longer included.



The bright yellow tag makes it easy to find the new measures in the table of contents and chapters. You can view Tracker and the supplement - [Tracker](#)



MoDOT's Financial Snapshot

The Financial Services Division has completed MoDOT's Financial Snapshot for Fiscal Year 2012. The snapshot provides answers to frequently asked questions regarding MoDOT's finances. Information such as the breakdown of revenues and expenditures, summary of the bonding program and state fuel and tax rate comparisons can be found in the document posted on MoDOT's internet. [Financial Snapshot](#)

November Service Anniversaries

25 Years

Mary K. Otting – CD
Michelle A. Clayton – CO

20 Years

Garrett D. Gillespie – NW
Jeremy G. Gibson – NE
Mary J. Wagner – NE
Angela L. Talbott – NE
Samuel D. Kemp – NE
Daniel G. Winkler – NE
Eric L. Mothersbaugh – KC
Randy J. Rice – CD
Forrest L. Long – CD
Douglas L. Even – CD
Richard L. Campbell – SL
Christina L. Hannar – SL
Billy R. Wells – SE
Michael J. Penger – CO

15 Years

Mathew W. Sonner – NW
Kelly A. Hall – NE
Jerad R. Noland – NE
James T. Barnes – SE
Denise Hopper – SE
Gary D. Ricker – SE
Linda L. McEntire – CO

10 Years

Brian N. Smiley – NW
C.J. Bowman – NW
Raymond L. Gebhards – NW
Scott A. Teter – NE
Wade D. Hildenbrand – KC
Deanna D. Phillips – KC
Karl F. Desch – CD
Bruce A. Rackers – CD
Keith D. Lawson – CD
Johnny W. Johnson – SL
Deborah K. Hackmann – SL
Rodney L. Diggins – SW

10 Years Continued

Dennis W. Brown – SW
Lucas C. Dobbs – SW
Cory M. Gray – SE
Kimberly L. Carriger – CO
Adam L. Zentz – CO
Jerica L. Holtsclaw – CO
Cheryl L. Boessen – IS

5 Years

Leslie S. Thrasher – NE
Jason L. Wilkerson – NE
John A. Evans – NE
James M. Kavanaugh – KC
JoAnn B. Mackay – KC
Claude D. Malott – KC
Randall L. Edgar – SL
Arberdella Hurd – SL
Patrick Arbuthnot – SL
Fred T. Chew – SL
Mariano Monsalvo – SW
Kathleen M. Smith – CO

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MoDOT Multimodal Joins Hannibal in Celebrating a New Airport Terminal

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

It sure beats the old place.

The City of Hannibal and its chamber of commerce celebrated the completion of a new airport terminal building on Oct. 23. And there was much to celebrate. The former terminal building was a multipurpose hangar/fueling station/office housed in a metal structure. It served a purpose, but users dreamed of a more conducive facility.



The City of Hannibal and Hannibal Chamber of Commerce celebrate the completion of a new airport terminal building.

Airport professionals, pilots and visitors now enjoy a 2,400 square foot terminal with proper offices, a state-of-the-art pilot flight preparation area with a real-time weather screen and all-important public restrooms. Those elements are important to the private plane owners, executive/business craft corporate pilots, student pilots, medical flight staff and parachuting businesses who use the airport.

It took a lot of work to get to this point and MoDOT played an integral part, according to Dave Burle, airport project manager in Multimodal Operations.

"Missouri is a block grant state, meaning that the Federal Aviation Administration transfers a sum of money to MoDOT every year and trusts us to administer it wisely," Burle said. "We work very closely with general aviation airport sponsors to make sure we address as many of their highest priorities as possible."

Airport sponsors, which are usually cities, work with consultants to develop and report a list of desired future projects to MoDOT. Most often, these have to do with runway and other facility maintenance.

MoDOT reviews the desired projects and notifies airport authorities which projects are currently eligible for funding pursuant to federal and state requirements. The cities, in most cases, take on the bid process and MoDOT coordinates the grant agreement once the bid price is known. As the reams of paper and servers full of electronic files attest, this is just the beginning of a detailed process.



Pilots use state-of-the-art weather information to make decisions about flight safety at the terminal.

MoDOT's airport project team, which includes Burle, Liz Duvall, Darrell Goth and Bryan Gregory, perform a quality assurance function, review bid packages, monitor construction and verify the final punch list process. As administrators of funding, MoDOT's Aviation Section guides airport sponsors through the applications, invoicing and payment process.

"Hannibal's terminal is a real milestone event for the Northeast Missouri aviation community," said Burle. "The FAA requires that a general use airport complete all high priority infrastructure construction – such as runway and taxiway maintenance – before they are allowed to use funding on vertical structures. They've managed the process well and created a well-functioning facility as a result."

Missouri State Employees Blood Drive

There are several opportunities to donate blood during the state employee blood drive this month. Please consider this information provided by the American Red Cross and take the opportunity to donate.

Hurricane Sandy has forced the cancellation of hundreds of American Red Cross blood drives in 11 states along the East Coast, resulting in a shortfall of more than 3,200 units of blood and platelets thus far. The Missouri State Employees blood drive is coming up, starting Nov. 13. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Hurricane Sandy will be long gone then, but the loss in blood and platelet collections may still be lingering. The storm will most likely cause power outages that may cause additional blood drive cancellations.

Hurricane Sandy will no doubt affect the number of people available to donate, but hospital patients still need blood, regardless of the weather.

Please help by making an appointment to donate at the Missouri State Employee Blood Drive. Show-Me State -- Let's "show" the love and collect 200 pints of blood!

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment (Sponsor Code "MoState")

Thanks to all of our dedicated and future donors and all Missouri state employees. See you soon!

Mason E. Neff
Donor Recruitment Representative
American Red Cross Blood Services

Opportunities to Donate:

Nov. 13 & 14 - 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Truman Building, 4th Floor Auditorium

Nov. 16 - 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
St. Joseph's Cathedral Undercroft

Nov. 13 - 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
State Capitol – Third Floor Rotunda

Nov. 20 - 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Truman Building, 4th Floor Auditorium

Employees located in other areas of the state are encouraged to contact their local American Red Cross for donation opportunities in your area.



Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
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573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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The 2011 Flood is Finally Over

In June of 2011, more than 70 miles of Missouri highway were closed due to an upstream release by the Army Corps of Engineers. It decimated farmland, towns, and highways, sweeping away large sections of roadway that could not be evaluated, designed and rebuilt until floodwaters fully receded.

Trooper Frederick "Fred" F. Guthrie, Jr. and his K-9 partner were working near Big Lake on Route 118 at Route 111 on Aug. 1, when they were apparently swept away by fast moving floodwater. His body was subsequently retrieved from a scour hole.

On Oct. 5 of this year, a ceremony was held dedicating the Trooper Fred F. Guthrie Jr. Memorial Highway, and less than a week later, the final road closed by the Flood of 2011 was reopened to all traffic.

Fixing that road, Route 111 in Holt County, involved filling the scour hole using sand that was deposited on adjacent ground. MoDOT was able to restore about 100 acres to crop production.



Photo by Greg Stervinou

The New TMA Earns Its Keep

On Friday, Oct. 26, MoDOT crews were working on northbound Interstate 229 in St. Joseph when a delivery truck hit a truck-mounted attenuator protecting our workers in a moving work zone. Thankfully the TMA did its job and there were no injuries. The investigation into the crash is still continuing.



Photo by Marcia Johnson



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Snow....Bring It On!

With 343 employees, 20 buildings and about 5500 miles of road, MoDOT's Northeast District is prepped and ready for winter. "Overall, we think the winter drill went fairly well, yet our debriefing meeting on Friday will give us a better idea of successes and potential improvements," said Ervin Fackler, assistant maintenance and traffic engineer and emergency management coordinator for the district.

"We thoroughly tested our radio communications equipment and process, which helped some of our new operators become more comfortable with managing the emergency operations center," Ervin said. "We did identify an issue with a couple of our towers, so we'll be working on that," he added.

Six media outlets conducted interviews and shared news throughout the day.

Tanya Carlisle is one of the new radio operators who was previously trained, yet said this drill helped her learn more about the reality of running the radio. "There is a lot of background noise, so you have to listen closely to make sure you get everything," she said. Tanya is very familiar with the traveler information map and other resources needed to operate the radio, because she has been a back up for customer service for several years. "I was a little nervous at first, but I have great co-workers who are there to help, so bring on the snow!" she added.



Dusty Wilson (left), maintenance and traffic, has been an important part of training employees who will be working the radio in the emergency operations center. On Halloween "Snow" Day, he helped get 10 new operators comfortable, including Tanya Carlisle, program delivery.

Voices Heard About Hopewell Hill

About 60 people attended the public hearing to learn of the proposed new alignment to improve safety on a curvy, hilly stretch of Highway 47 just south of Warrenton. The majority of them, while pleased MoDOT is doing something to make the road safer, voiced concerns over the amount of property needed to make the proposed changes.

"We had a lot of good feedback, and generally, area residents want to see something done; they are just concerned about their property and their neighbor's property," explained MoDOT Project Manager Chris Knapp.

Chris and his team will review the comments from the public to determine what suggestions can be incorporated and help maintain good relationships with area residents.

The project is expected to be constructed in 2014 at a cost of around \$3 million dollars.



Debbie Malone, assistant right of way manager, visits with a property owner about the safety improvements proposed on MO 47 south of Warrenton.

Around the District...



Charles Roberts is the first Northeast District winner for Safety Jackpot, and he has generously shared his \$750 winnings with the entire New Cambria maintenance facility. This drawing was the nationwide

drawing for the first quarter of Safety Jackpot. There are three people chosen each quarter for the nationwide drawing. Also, each month one lucky employee, who submitted their Safety Jackpot cards the previous month, is randomly selected to try their hand at the bag grab. The monthly cash prizes range from \$500.00 to \$10,000. Safety Jackpot is a safety incentive program that helps us focus on our safety culture and zero injury philosophy.



When schools are invited to participate in Team Spirit, they initially think it's a cheerleading camp. "It is kind of like cheerleading," said Marisa Christy-Kerns, customer relations specialist who recently organized a Team Spirit Day in Kirksville. "But it's more like cheerleading for safe driving and seat belt use," she explained. Seven schools from northern Missouri gathered at the Kirksville YMCA to participate in team-building activities and create action plans that can be used in their schools to help improve seat belt use.



Congratulations go out to Tana Akright, customer relations specialist for the NE Coalition, for winning the region's "Show Me Safety" Award, and to Palmyra Police Chief Ed Bogue, for winning the region's "Arrive Alive" Award. Both were recognized at the statewide Blueprint Conference held last

week in Branson. She is pictured in the middle with (left) Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety Board Member Sheriff Rodney Herring, Grundy County, and (right) Leanna DePue, Highway Safety.

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Route 169 Bin Wall Replacement Project Opens Six Weeks Early

by Steve Porter

MoDOT asked for a lot from the contractors who tackled the Route 169 bin wall replacement project:

- Do the job within five feet of an active railroad yard on the east side, and with one of the world's great rivers rushing past on the west side
- Work in a blistering heat wave and drought
- Have two teams of workers, a bridge repair crew working north to south and a bin wall replacement crew working south to north
- When they get in each other's way, they have to maintain their whirlwind pace without interfering with the other team



The Missouri River and several railroad tracks sandwich the Route 169 Bin Wall Replacement project. Crews worked in these tight quarters repairing the bridge and replacing the bin wall, finishing the entire project and opening all lanes six weeks early. Photo by Cathy Morrison

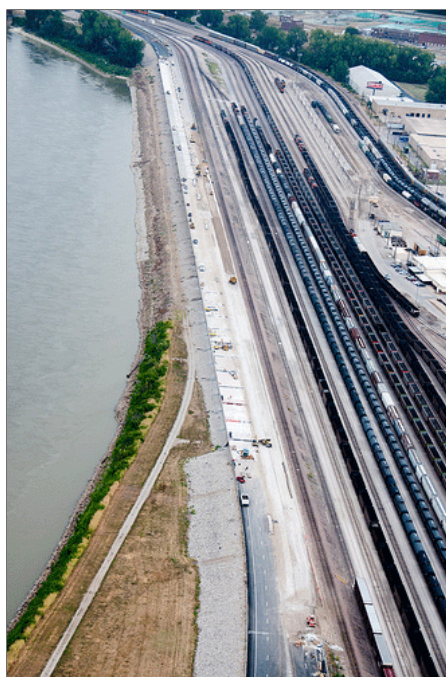
- Work carefully beneath airplanes flying less than 500 feet above, water, fiber optic and electrical utility lines running below
- Remember that the sandy berm you are working atop is a major levee that must be able to hold back a flood when you are done
- Everyone must remain safe
- Oh, and get done six weeks ahead of schedule – please!



The work area was tight. There was hardly enough room for laborers to work between the new wall and the barrier at the edge of MoDOT right of way, which kept workers from straying near the active railroad tracks. Photo by Mike Frizzell



Placing blocks for the new bin wall, notice that the floor of the wall is laid on a concrete pad, then each level of wall is backfilled by limestone before the sand of the levee is replaced behind it. Photo by Mike Frizzell



All lanes for Route 169, commonly referred to as the Broadway Extension, closed to allow work to be done quickly and safely. More than 35,000 motorists were detoured around the closure which was anticipated to last through December. A quick pace and dry weather conditions allowed the contractor, Pyramid Contractors, Inc. to finish early. Photo by Cathy Morrison

So early Halloween morning, thousands of eager Northland motorists began streaming across the Broadway Extension, delighted that general contractor Pyramid Contractors, Inc. and subcontractor Comanche Construction Co. were swift and thorough.

Pyramid completed nearly a mile of bin wall replacement along the northbound lanes, removing rusted out corrugated steel and replacing it with more than 9,000 concrete blocks each weighing up to 3,500 pounds to build the new wall. In addition, about a mile of old pavement was removed and replaced with a new concrete two-lane northbound highway.

Comanche's workers employed up to four dozen jackhammers running at a time, removing 48 bridge joints and replacing them with 24 joints. More than 15,000 square feet of concrete deck was repaired, with about 3,600 feet of new two-lane concrete highway surface replaced.

At times, up to 100 workers were swarming the northbound portion and the southbound bridge deck each day. Early on, workers were on site seven days a week, working multiple shifts. More than three miles of new concrete barrier were constructed, and more than 3,500 feet of new guardrail was installed.

The contractors' workers and MoDOT were on the job every single day to hasten the opening. From the smiles on motorists' faces Wednesday morning, it was worth it.

Stakeholders in the community feted the conquering team with a reception Wednesday afternoon in Hangar 1 at the Downtown Airport. MoDOT displayed more than a dozen photos of the work under way, and as it neared completion, a visual tale of teamwork.

Visit MoDOT's [Flickr site](#) to view all the aerial photos of the Bin Wall Project taken by Cathy Morrison.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Route 94 Named AMVETS Memorial Highway

Route 94 in Callaway County is now more than just a state highway. State officials and area veterans unveiled a new highway sign designating the route as AMVETS Memorial Highway on Oct. 25. The designation honoring American veterans runs from the intersection of U.S. Route 54 to one mile east of Route D near Portland.

The following veterans, representing each war since World War II, were honored at the ceremony: World War II, Harold Boone, United States Navy; Korean War, Bill Braun, United States Army; Vietnam War, Bill Hamacher, United States Air Force; Operation Desert Storm, Charles Williams, United States Navy; Operation Iraqi Freedom, Albert Nichols, United States Army; Afghanistan War, Tyler Huffman, Disabled American Veteran, United States Marines; and John Lovan - United States Coast Guard.



State officials and area veterans unveiled a new highway sign designating Route 94 as AMVETS Memorial Highway on Oct. 25. The designation honoring American veterans runs from the intersection of U.S. Route 54 to one mile east of Route D near Portland.

"It is imperative that we do things like this to not only make sure our current generation understands and remembers - but for those generations to come - that freedom has never been free, and America truly is the home of the brave," said State Rep. Jeanie Riddle of Mokane, who sponsored the legislation required to name the highway.

Sen. Mike Kehoe of Jefferson City handled the legislation in the Senate, and the Missouri legislature passed the bill in May. The designation became official Aug. 28.

"The people who have sacrificed their lives to give us our freedom today will now have another permanent place in our hearts as we drive up and down this highway," Kehoe said. He also recognized VFW Post 1003 from Jefferson City, whose members posted the colors for the event, for celebrating its 90th birthday today.

Mokane resident Bob Spencer, the commander of AMVETS Post 153, spearheaded the highway-naming effort. In addition to initiating the legislative process, Spencer and other AMVETS members sought donations and held fundraisers to raise the \$2,200 needed to pay for the memorial signs, which note the highway designation in each direction.

"The highway naming process is not easy, but that's the way it should be," said Travis Koestner, assistant district engineer. "We want the process to be taken seriously and any request to be given full and careful consideration before approval."

Fall Meetings Make for a Busy October

The Central District's annual series of fall meetings came to a close on Oct. 30 with the final meeting held for district office staff at the Central District headquarters building in Jefferson City.

Employees received information on a variety of topics, including benefits, diversity and inclusion training, maintenance and winter operations, work zone safety

and the annual Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign.

Staff members in various locations were also recognized during the meetings for their outstanding performance and service during the past year.



Kim Hilburn, senior traffic specialist in the Rolla project office, explains the purpose and goals of the Central District's Employee Crossroad Fund at the fall meeting held Oct. 10 in Rolla.

Retiree's Daughter Pays It Forward



Toni Lannert, far right, spent her 36 birthday - Oct. 5 - doing 36 nice things for others. One of her stops was the MoDOT Central District. Joining her in the day of giving was her nephew, Jaden Gage, her son Jake Lannert, her niece Areyana Gage and her daughter, Gabrielle Bax. They are pictured here with Central District Customer Service Representative Tina Grothoff.

Toni Lannert, daughter of MoDOT retiree Bob Lannert, recently celebrated her 36th birthday in a very unique way. She and her two children, along with a niece and nephew, spent the day doing 36 nice things for others. The acts of kindness included visiting a nursing home, buying a police officer breakfast, donating pet food to the local animal shelter, returning carts at Wal-Mart and serving breakfast to teachers at a local school.

Lannert said she got the idea from a television news story about a woman who decided to use her birthday to give rather than to get. She and her children, Jake Lannert and Gabrielle Bax, along with their cousins, Jaden and Areyana Gage, stopped by the Central District on Oct. 5 as part of their day of giving and presented a McDonald's gift certificate to the customer service center. She said she wanted to give back to MoDOT because the department had been so important to her dad.

Bob, who retired from the Central Office Maintenance Division, is credited with inventing the TowPLow, a steerable plow that is pulled behind a snowplow truck and is able to swing out to one side. It allows snow to be cleared from a roadway with fewer trucks and operators, saving on labor and equipment costs. The family also boasts another MoDOT connection. Jaden and Areyana's grandmother is Ernestine Gage, also a former MoDOT employee.

When asked which charitable activity had the most impact on the kids, Lannert jokingly said the biggest deal for them was "probably getting out of school for the day."

Supervisors Get Tips From "The Attitude Guy"



When Central District supervisors were treated to a speaker offering tips on the importance of maintaining a positive attitude, they probably never thought they'd be rolling on the ground with laughter. But nationally recognized speaker Sam Glenn, known as The Attitude Guy, delivers his message with a humorous punch to drive home the points he's trying to make. Above, Glenn talks about how at one time, he was negative, broke, depressed, homeless and got by working odd jobs at night as a janitor and delivering newspapers. A friend gave him what he calls a "Kick in the Attitude," a gift that changed his attitude for the better, and now he shares that change with others. Below, Resident Engineer John Sanders, Senior Highway Designer Matt Prenger, Resident Engineer Dennis Krenning and Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Tamara Pitts react with a positive attitude to Glenn's message.



Click It For Life



The Central District was the location for two seat belt checkpoints set up on Oct. 16 as part of the Click It For Life campaign sponsored by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Troopers with the patrol's Troop F stopped cars near Eugene High School in the morning and Russellville High School in the afternoon to check for seatbelt use. Those who weren't buckled up were given tickets. The campaign was held in conjunction with the Battle of the Belt promotion, which began Oct. 1 and ends Nov. 9.

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St. Louis
District

Maintenance Leader is Prime Example of Healthy Living

by Marie Elliott

It's no secret that women have a direct impact on the health of their families and community. That's why it is no surprise that St. Louis District Maintenance Engineer Becky Allmeroth was recently nominated and awarded the 2012 Healthy Woman Award from St. Luke's Hospital.

The St. Luke's Healthy Woman Award strives to recognize and celebrate women who not only take steps to improve their own health, but also inspire better health in their community.

Allmeroth motivates others through her own actions, empowers others to pursue better health and devotes herself to making our community a healthier and safer place to live. Overall, St. Luke's Healthy Woman improves the health of our community, one woman at a time.

Allmeroth developed the innovative "Morning Muster" program for maintenance workers. By incorporating stretching and exercises each morning before the physically challenging labor of the maintenance crews begins, the program helps reduce workplace injuries, and has been adopted as a statewide best practice. She also championed a new, more rigorous hard hat policy for the district. Personally, Becky demonstrates a holistic approach to healthy living as an accomplished runner (including marathons and half-marathons), busy mother and being active in her church.

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St. Louis' Becky Allmeroth (pictured far left) was one of four women to each receive the 2012 Healthy Woman Award from St. Luke's Hospital.

St. Louis Ready for Winter With Help of Snow Drill

by Kara Price and Jack Wang

St. Louis warned its regional motorists that if they saw MoDOT snow plows out and about on state routes on October 31 to not be concerned that Hurricane Sandy is bringing winter weather into the area. MoDOT employees put their preparations to the test by holding the department's first statewide winter operations drill that day. Trucks with snowplows and spreaders deployed across state routes in response to a simulated snowfall event. The drill took approximately six hours during daytime non-peak travel times.

"This snow drill is our dress rehearsal to get all the bugs worked out before we have a real winter storm," said Becky Allmeroth, St. Louis district maintenance engineer. "This is our opportunity to open lines of communication with our external partners like law enforcement to help each other during any level of winter operations."

Allmeroth added, "We have made quite a few changes this past year, such as training employees to expand our liquid treatment capabilities. We also have new additional state routes like Route 141 and Page extension to practice plowing that we didn't have last year. This snow drill helps us be even more prepared for whatever Mother Nature hits us with this year."

MoDOT employees at the Eureka maintenance building prep the snowplows to be ready for MoDOT's statewide winter operations drill.



www.modot.org/road_conditions/winterdrivingtips.htm

MoDOT annually spends about \$42 million to keep roads clear in the winter and help ensure motorists get to their destinations safely and quickly. For information on road conditions across the state, safe traveling tips, and other winter weather information, visit

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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EMPLOYEE FAIR: Discussing an insurance issue at an Employee Fair in Ozark are Senior Financial Services Specialist Todd Tyler, left, with Senior Financial Services Specialist Greg Donoho and Ozark Maintenance Crew Leader Glenn Breckner, right. Seven employee meetings were held across the Southwest District from late September through late October. Employees received updates on insurance and other benefits, safety, diversity and technical training and other employment-related information. (Photo: Bob Edwards)



AWARD for LEADERSHIP: District Engineer Becky Baltz, center, was named one of the Springfield Business Journal's "20 Most Influential Women of 2012." Presenting the award Oct. 19 were SBJ Publisher Jennifer Jackson, left, and President and Chairwoman Diane Elizabeth Osis. Baltz also won the same honor from the Joplin Tri-State Business Journal in 2010. She is the only woman in the award's history to have made the publishing company's Top 20 list in each community. This year, the 20 Springfield honorees were chosen from among 60 women who completed the application process among 100 nominees. (Photo: Bob Edwards)

New Round-About Opens to Traffic At Route 96 / 43 North of Webb City

by Bob Edwards



Looking north at the Route 43 / 96 round-about near Webb City. (Photo: Bob Edwards)

Drivers have been using a new round-about north of Webb City since Oct. 15, and they're handling the change well.

That's the assessment of Joplin Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Dave Taylor, who had worked for several years to add safety features to the intersection of Route 96 and Route 43.

"When I've been out there watching, it seems like it's working fine," Taylor said.

People are yielding before entering if another vehicle is already in the round-about, he said -- which is as it should be. Big trucks are having no problems with the 20-foot wide lane and 10-foot mountable apron.

The goal is to reduce the number of crashes while allowing traffic to keep moving, even though drivers have to decelerate from the 55 mph speed limit on each road approaching the intersection.

Between 2007 and 2011, two people lost their lives in crashes at the intersection. Three others sustained disabling injuries and six people had minor injuries during that period.

To address safety concerns, the district had put up "stop ahead" signs on Route 96, increased the size of the stop sign for Route 96 traffic, installed rumble strips across Route 96 approaching the stop signs and put in interactive flashers.

A round-about was chosen as the next step rather than go to a four-way stop (by adding stop signs for Route 43 traffic) or to signalize the intersection.

Assistant District Engineer Dan Salisbury said a round-about forces drivers to focus as they move slowly through the intersection, stopping only when having to yield.

"It gives a different vision of the roadway," Salisbury said, and that should help make the intersection safer.

Construction cost was \$860,000, which includes building the round-about, installing highway lighting and adding signs. APAC-Missouri of Columbia was the prime contractor.

The intersection was closed for 35 days for construction.

Southwest District Employees Honored At Service Awards Gathering Oct. 22

by Angela Eden

The accomplishments of 35 Southwest District employees with a cumulative 810 years of experience working for MoDOT were celebrated during a Service Award gathering Oct. 22.

Honored were employees who reached the milestones of 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service during 2012.

MoDOT Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker, the keynote speaker, commended the employees for their dedication and thanked them for their service.

Veteran workers play a key role for MoDOT as the Bolder Five Year direction is implemented, Broeker said.

"People will be looking at you to set the tone, especially in these times of change," she said.

District Engineer Becky Baltz said afterwards that long-term employees help the entire organization move forward.

"When our newer employees have questions, they rely on our long-term employees because 'they've been there and done that.' This provides continuity. There's no better training tool than to have a conversation with a knowledgeable, experienced person," Baltz said.

The recipients and their guests were honored at a luncheon at the Bass Pro Shop White River Conference Center in Springfield.



35-YEAR RECIPIENTS: From left, Dan Salisbury, Allen Bley, Dan Ream with District Engineer Becky Baltz. (Photos: Angela Eden)



25-YEAR RECIPIENTS: From left, Mari Heeter, Greg Donoho, with District Engineer Becky Baltz.



20-YEAR RECIPIENTS: From left, Aydi Girgin, Lyndel Hall, Bob Becker, Don Saiko, Howard Henderson, Steve Howell, Sean Matlock, Craig Huckaby, Mark Winningham, Connie Wilson, Skip Schaller, Vicki Wells, Barry Weaver, Cindy Merritt, Shayne Engel, Tim Lindeman with District Engineer Becky Baltz.

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Customer Service: Going Above & Beyond

Customers Thank MoDOT's Southeast District via Facebook

Many job responsibilities, such as following up on concerns, filling potholes and providing directions to route customers to their destinations, are part of providing outstanding customer service. But it can also mean reacting to a situation where customers need assistance, even if it is not part of your job description.

Please see the facebook comment from Ms. Francis to the right. In the comment, Ms. Francis describes how an unknown MoDOT employee helped ensure her safety. The comment has garnered 405 "likes" and 14 comments, in addition to several new facebook friends! To view the comments or the Southeast District's facebook page, please visit www.facebook.com/MoDOTSoutheast.



In addition to receiving 405 "likes," the comment also received 14 comments.

Keith Visits SE Employees



MoDOT Director Kevin Keith recently visited the SE District during an employee meeting in Willow Springs. In addition to fielding questions from employees, Keith provided an update on the Bolder Five-Year Direction and discussed providing outstanding customer service when winter weather strikes.

Kudos from Our Customers!

Letter from Ms. Denbow:

*To whomever is responsible for the extra lane on Highway 142 in Thayer in front of Wal-Mart and the school...THANKS—brilliant plan, great work and a blessing everyday!
From a grateful citizen,
Cheryl Denbow*

Phone Call from Ms. Cutler:

Ms. Cutler lives on Route 76 in Howell County, and she called to say thank you very much for mowing the roadside in her surrounding area. She also wanted to thank the employees for all they do in the winter months and how hard they work to keep the road and shoulders looking nice.

Phone Call from Ms. Darnell:

Mary Darnell lives in Wappapello, and she wants the area maintenance crew to know that they did a wonderful job on her driveway.

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